

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

MCT-02 HA-05 /075 W

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R 061643Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1713

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEVELOPMENTS; ATTACKS ON THE
EXTREME LEFT

REF: LIMA 7831

SUMMARY: SOME FOCEP AND UDP MEMBERS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECTS OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PAST FEW DAYS, APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO
INTIMIDATE RATHER THAN INJURE. LEADERS OF CENTER AND RIGHT-WING
PARTIES MET PRIVATELY TO DISCUSS MEANS OF SPEEDING UP THE
ASSEMBLY'S WORK. UNO AND APRA LEADERS HAVE ESTIMATED THAT THE
NEW CONSTITUTION COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS. THE NEXT
PLENARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE HELD EITHER SEPTEMBER
7 OR 8. IN THIS MEETING, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE APPROVED.
END SUMMARY.

1. SEVERAL FOCEP AND UDP ASSEMBLY MEMBERS CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN
TARGETS OF RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS. DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 29,
A BOMB WAS THROWN AGAINST THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOME OF UDP
LEADER AND ASSEMBLY DELEGATE RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ. ON SEPTEMBER 2,
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A BOMB WAS THROWN AT THE HOME OF A FOCEP DELEGATE, MAGDA
BENAVIDES. AT THE SAME TIME, A BOMB WAS THROWN AT THE OFFICES
OF THE NEWSPAPER "PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION" WHICH IS MANAGED BY
RICARDO NAPURI (FOCEP). NAPURI ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN ATTACKED
BY APRA MEMBERS IN THE PORT TOWN OF SALAVERRY WHERE HE HAD
TRAVELLED TO MEET WITH LOCAL LEADERS. HUGO BLANCO CLAIMS THAT
ON SEPTEMBER 4 A GROUP OF ARMED MEN ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO

KIDNAP HIM. THERE WERE NO INJURIES IN ANY OF THESE CASES. HAYA DE LA TORRE, AS WELL AS OTHER ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, HAVE CONDEMNED THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE. HAYA NOTED THAT THE ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT PEACEFULLY AND THAT THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE RARE IN PERUVIAN POLITICS.

2. COMMENT: THE ATTACKS AGAINST LEFTIST LEADERS, ALL OF THEM ACTIVE IN LABOR AGITATION, ARE A NEW NOTE ON THE POLITICAL SCENE. ALTHOUGH NAPURI DECLARED THAT HIS ATTACKERS IN SALAVERRY WERE APRA MEMBERS, THIS IS UNCONFIRMED AND BLANCO'S ACCUSATIONS ARE SUSPICIOUSLY VAGUE. NONETHELESS, SOME BOMBS HAVE BEEN PLANTED ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHAT GROUP OR GROUPS WERE RESPONSIBLE. WHILE THESE APPEAR TO BE EFFORTS TO INTIMIDATE RATHER THAN INJURE THE VIOLENCE COULD ESCALATE. END COMMENT.

3. ON AUGUST 31, APRA, PPC, MDP AND UNO LEADERS MET IN THE HOME OF MARCO ANTONION GARRIDO MELO (MDP) TO CONSIDER THEIR STRATEGY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE GROUP AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) TO PREVENT THE LEFT FROM UTILIZING THE ASSEMBLY AS A FORUM FOR LONG AND IRRELEVANT SPEECHES, (B) TO PREVENT THE DEBATING OF ISSUES NOT RELATED TO THE WRITING OF A CONSTITUTION, (C) TO DISCOURAGE ATTACKS ON THE GOP IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE COEXISTENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THE GOP (THIS POINT WAS SUGGESTED BY APRA LEADERS).

4. COMMENT: THE APRA-PPC-UNO-MDP MEETING AND THE STATEMENTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SANCHEZ (REFTEL) AND VICTOR ROSELL (UNO) THAT THE CONSTITUTION COULD BE COMPLETED IN SIX MONTHS ARE INDICATIONS OF THE MAJORITY'S BELIEF THAT THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY MUST BE ACCELERATED. APRA IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS SINCE ITS CURRENT RELATIONSHIP OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" WITH THE GOP PLACES IT IN A DIFFICULT POLITICAL POSITION VIS A VIS THE ATTACKS OF THE EXTREME LEFT. THE LONGER THE ASSEMBLY DRAGS ON, THE MORE APRA AND THE OTHER MODERATES ARE TARRIED BY ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNPOPULAR DE FACTO GOVERNMENT, AND THE GREATER THE CHANCE THAT THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS (IN WHICH THEY HAVE A STAKE) COULD BE DERAILED. END COMMENT.

5. THE LAST OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TO REGISTER THEIR PREFERENCES FOR COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS (3 FOCEP MEMBERS AND ONE PSR MEMBER) DID SO SEPTEMBER 4. THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY WILL NOW MAKE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ON A PROPORTIONAL BASIS. NO COMMITTEE IS TO HAVE LESS THAN FIVE OR MORE THAN TEN MEMBERS. THE SUGGESTED COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR ITS APPROVAL AT A PLENARY SESSION EITHER SEPTEMBER 7 OR 8.

DECON 8-5-79.

SHLAUDEMANN

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